

#### Durango Itinerary - August 7, 2015:

9:10 Shaun McGrath and David Ostrander Arrive Durango  
9:30 Meeting with EPA OSC's Hays Griswold (tentatively Pete Stevenson) (location TBD)  
10:15/10:30 Local officials meeting at County Commissioner's office

Attendance should include Mayor, County Commissioners, Congressional Staff, and a few EOC staff to provide an overview of what they've seen along the river and what they're hearing locally

11:00 Tour of the Water Treatment Plant  
12:00 Visit the river and lunch.  
1:30 to 2:30 Public meeting/press  
4:00 Shaun McGrath Return flight

On August 5, 2015, EPA was conducting an investigation of the Gold King Mine. The intent of the investigation was to assess the on-going water releases from the mine and to assess the feasibility of mine water treatment. The plan was to excavate the loose material that had collapsed into the cave entry back to the timbering. During the excavation, the loose material gave way, opening the adit and spilling the large volume of water stored behind into Cement Creek, a tributary of the Animas River.

Initial estimates are that the release contained approximately one million gallons of water (estimated from the dimensions of the mine adit) that was held behind unconsolidated debris near an abandoned mine portal. There were several workers at the site at the time of the breach, all were unharmed.

The large pulse of water dissipated in about an hour. In fact today the water in Cement Creek and the Animas in Silverton is no longer orange and is clearing. The adit is still discharging low flows into Cement Creek. Today, EPA is building settling ponds to contain these low flows – the upper pond will be completed by early afternoon, and the lower one by COB or early tomorrow. EPA will treat the ponds with caustic soda and flocculent once the ponds are built. We expect conditions will continue to improve in the coming hours and few days.

We have a flight crew in the air taking photographs and we are executing a continuous river sampling plan. We have been executing this sampling plan since the event occurred on Wednesday and, along with multiple state, tribal and federal partners, we will continue to monitor the impacts of the spill on downstream waters.

#### Updated Timeline of Events:

8/5/15  
Blowout Occurs (10:30am)  
Safety of On Site Personnel is Secured  
CDPHE notified (12:40 pm)  
Notifications to Durango, San Juan Basin Health Dept., and water intakes complete by (1:30 pm)  
Report to National Response Center (2:30 pm)  
Tribe Notified

EPA Issues First Press Release (11:26)

EPA Begins Sampling (know first round collected at 6pm, we think they started earlier but cannot confirm right now)

Plume Reaches Silverton (11:30am)

8/6/15

EPA Stand Up REOC (10:00)

HQs, R6 and R9 are Notified (11:00)

Animas is Closed to Recreational Users (coordination with locals and ATSDR to make decision at approximately 10:30; we saw official printed release later in the afternoon).

Durango Treatment Plant is Secure per Reports from Water Program (3:45)

Plume Reaches Durango (late afternoon)

EPA Deploys Additional OSC, ASPECT, Personnel (varied, beginning at 12:30)

EPA Issued PolRep (approx. 3:30)

8/7/15

ASPECT Flyover (initiated at 0730, found extent of plume at 830-lat/longs received, map pending)

Sampling and Monitoring Data is Available (pending-expecting initial sample results around noon).

**Data:**

Marty's input

EPA has 17 years of baseline data on the mine and down stream along Cement Creek and the Animas River.

**Next Steps:**

Constructing 2 ponds at mine site and start treatment by this afternoon or tomorrow morning

Continue to sample water and monitor plume

Continue to collect and present data

Coordinate with R6, R9, state of CO and local entities

Provide status updates with HQ, media and public

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